

- C1
- b) determining the activity of MSH5 in the presence and absence of said test compound;
 - c) selecting a compound that modulates the activity of MSH5; and
 - d) identifying said compound as being a candidate compound useful as a contraceptive.
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C2

23. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said compound modulates MSH5 expression.

C3

29. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said compound modulates the activity of an MSH5 substrate.

Please add new claims 30-32 as follows:

30. A method for identifying a candidate compound useful as a contraceptive, comprising:

- C4
- a) contacting a cell expressing MSH5 with a test compound;
 - b) determining the expression of the MSH5 gene or the activity of MSH5 in the presence and absence of said test compound;
 - c) selecting a compound that modulates the expression of the MSH5 gene or the activity of MSH5; and
 - d) identifying said compound as being a candidate compound useful as a contraceptive.

31. A method for identifying a candidate compound useful for modulating meiosis in a cell, comprising:

- a) contacting MSH5 with a test compound;
- b) determining the activity of MSH5 in the presence and absence of said test compound;
- c) selecting a compound that modulates the activity of MSH5; and
- d) identifying said compound as being a candidate compound useful for modulating meiosis in a cell.